

**THE NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC COMPANY
d/b/a NATIONAL GRID**

**INVESTIGATION AS TO THE PROPRIETY
OF PROPOSED TARIFF CHANGES**

RIPUC DOCKET NO. 4065

**BEFORE THE
RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**TESTIMONY AND EXHIBITS
OF DAVID J. EFFRON**

ON BEHALF OF THE

**DIVISION OF
PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS**

SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

RIPUC DOCKET NO. 4065
DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF DAVID J. EFFRON

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | <u>Page</u> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| I. STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS | 1 |
| II. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY | 2 |
| III. REVENUE REQUIREMENT | 3 |
| A. SUMMARY | 3 |
| B. COST OF SERVICE | 4 |
| 1. Operation and Maintenance Expenses | 5 |
| 2. Depreciation Expense | 24 |
| 3. Taxes Other Than Income Taxes | 25 |
| 4. Income Tax Expense | 25 |
| 5. Return on Rate Base | 26 |
| IV. DISTRIBUTION ADJUSTMENT PROVISION | 34 |

1 **I. STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS**

2 Q. Please state your name and business address.

3 A. My name is David J. Effron. My business address is 12 Pond Path, North Hampton,
4 New Hampshire, 03862.

5

6 Q. What is your present occupation?

7 A. I am a consultant specializing in utility regulation.

8

9 Q. Please summarize your professional experience.

10 A. My professional career includes over thirty years as a regulatory consultant, two
11 years as a supervisor of capital investment analysis and controls at Gulf & Western
12 Industries and two years at Touche Ross & Co. as a consultant and staff auditor. I am
13 a Certified Public Accountant and I have served as an instructor in the business
14 program at Western Connecticut State College.

15

16 Q. What experience do you have in the area of utility rate setting proceedings?

17 A. I have analyzed numerous electric, gas, telephone, and water filings in different
18 jurisdictions. Pursuant to those analyses I have prepared testimony, assisted attorneys
19 in case preparation, and provided assistance during settlement negotiations with
20 various utility companies.

21 I have testified in cases before regulatory commissions in Alabama, Colorado,
22 Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland,
23 Massachusetts, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio,

1 Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, and
2 Washington.

3

4 Q. Please describe your other work experience.

5 A. As a supervisor of capital investment analysis at Gulf & Western Industries, I was
6 responsible for reports and analyses concerning capital spending programs, including
7 project analysis, formulation of capital budgets, establishment of accounting
8 procedures, monitoring capital spending and administration of the leasing program.
9 At Touche Ross & Co., I was an associate consultant in management services for one
10 year and a staff auditor for one year.

11

12 Q. Have you earned any distinctions as a Certified Public Accountant?

13 A. Yes. I received the Gold Charles Waldo Haskins Memorial Award for the highest
14 scores in the May 1974 certified public accounting examination in New York State.

15

16 Q. Please describe your educational background.

17 A. I have a Bachelor's degree in Economics (with distinction) from Dartmouth College
18 and a Masters of Business Administration Degree from Columbia University

19

20 **II. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY**

21 Q. On whose behalf are you testifying?

22 A. I am testifying on behalf of the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers
23 ("the Division").

1

2 Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?

3 A. I am addressing the revenue requirement of the Rhode Island electric operations of
4 The Narragansett Electric Company, d/b/a National Grid (“National Grid” or “the
5 Company”) based on a test year consisting of the twelve months ended December 31
6 2008 and a rate year consisting of the twelve months ending December 31, 2010. I
7 also address the Distribution Adjustment Provision included in the Company’s
8 proposed tariff changes.

9

10 Q. Please summarize your testimony.

11 A. I have calculated a base rate revenue requirement of \$242,384,000 for electric
12 distribution service provided by National Grid in Rhode Island. The Company’s
13 revenue deficiency is \$26,841,000, which is 12.459% of the revenues produced by
14 the base rates presently in effect (Schedule DJE-1).

15 I also recommend that the Commission reject the Distribution Adjustment
16 Provision that the Company includes in its proposed tariff changes.

17

18 **III. REVENUE REQUIREMENT**

19 **A. SUMMARY**

20 Q. Have you prepared a summary of the Company’s rate year base rate revenue
21 requirement?

22 A. Yes, I prepared a summary on Schedule DJE-1. On this schedule, I compare the
23 Company’s presentation of its revenue deficiency to the Division’s recommendation.

1 I have begun with the Company's base rate cost of service. The base rate cost of
2 service is comprised of operating expenses plus the return on rate base, as shown on
3 my Schedule DJE-2. The total cost of service net of miscellaneous revenues is the
4 revenue requirement from services that are provided pursuant to Commission
5 approved base rates. The difference between the net revenue requirement and the rate
6 year revenues earned from tariff services is the Company's base rate revenue
7 deficiency.

8 National Grid has calculated a base rate revenue deficiency of \$65,534,000,
9 which is equal to 30.40% of rate year tariff revenues. I have calculated a revenue
10 deficiency of \$26,841,000, which is equal to 12.45% of rate year tariff revenues

11

12 **B. COST OF SERVICE**

13 Q. What are the elements of the cost of service?

14 A. The elements of the rate year cost of service are operation and maintenance expenses
15 (with uncollectible accounts expense, which is derived from the other elements of the
16 revenue requirement, shown separately), depreciation, taxes other than income taxes,
17 income taxes, and return on rate base. These elements of the total cost of service are
18 summarized on Schedule DJE-2.

19

20 Q. Are you proposing adjustments to the rate year cost of service calculated by the
21 Company?

22 A. Yes. The Company has calculated a pro forma rate year base rate revenue
23 requirement of \$281,077,000. Based on the adjustments to the Company's position

1 that I have identified, I am proposing a net base rate revenue requirement of
2 \$242,384,000. I address the individual adjustments to the Company's calculated cost
3 of service in the following testimony.

4

5 **1. Operation and Maintenance Expenses**

6 a. Incentive Compensation

7 Q. Does the Company include incentive compensation in pro forma test year operation
8 and maintenance expenses?

9 A. Yes. As can be seen on Exhibit NG-RLO-2, pages 5-7, the Company includes
10 incentive compensation (referred to there as "variable pay") in pro forma test year
11 salary and wage expenses. The incentive compensation programs are described in
12 the testimony of Company Witness Dowd. Based on Exhibit NG-RLO-2, test year
13 operation and maintenance expense includes \$701,000 of incentive compensation
14 directly paid to Company employees and \$1,707,000 of incentive compensation
15 allocated from service company employees.

16

17 Q. In your opinion, is the entire incentive compensation expense appropriately
18 recoverable in the Company's revenue requirement?

19 A. No. Based on the testimony of Mr. Dowd, at least 50% of the incentive
20 compensation is based on the attainment of financial goals. Incentive compensation
21 based on the attainment of financial goals, such as earnings or return on equity,
22 should not be recoverable from ratepayers.

23

1 Q. Why is it inappropriate to include incentive compensation based on the attainment
2 of financial goals in the utility's revenue requirement?

3 A. The attainment of financial targets, such as earnings or rate of return, is a
4 shareholder-oriented goal, not a customer-oriented goal. For example, if all else is
5 equal, higher rates will result in higher revenues, which in turn will result in higher
6 earnings. Thus, including incentive compensation related to the achievement of
7 earnings targets in the revenue requirement would, in effect, require customers to
8 reward company management on a contingency basis for getting them to pay higher
9 rates. If the incentive compensation program is successful in increasing earnings,
10 the shareholders should be willing to reward management accordingly and absorb
11 the cost of the program. As shareholders are the primary beneficiaries of increases
12 to earnings, it should be those shareholders, not customers, who bear the cost of the
13 incentive compensation related to earnings.

14

15 Q. Have you quantified the portion of incentive compensation based on the attainment
16 of financial goals?

17 A. It is not possible to calculate the incentive compensation related to the attainment of
18 financial goals precisely based on Mr. Dowd's testimony. However, as described in
19 that testimony, at least one-half of the incentive compensation is based on the
20 achievement of financial goals. Therefore, I propose to eliminate one-half of the
21 incentive compensation, or \$1,204,000, from the Company's cost of service
22 (Schedule DJE-4).

23

1 b. Contracted Hiring Requirement

2 Q. Has the Company proposed to adjust test year operation and maintenance expenses to
3 reflect minimum hiring levels required by certain union contracts?

4 A. Yes. The Company's union contracts require the hiring of additional employees to
5 perform certain operation and maintenance functions. The specified increases in the
6 hiring levels continue through April 2010. The Company is proposing to increase pro
7 forma test year operation and maintenance expenses by \$1,363,000 to reflect the
8 additional expenses associated with the union hiring requirements through the 2010
9 rate year (Exhibit NG-RLO-2, page 16).

10

11 Q. Is this adjustment appropriate?

12 A. No. The Company has not identified any additional tasks that the new hires will be
13 performing, and there is no sound reason to believe that the Company would agree
14 to hire more workers just for the purpose of increasing expenses. In fact, based on
15 the provisions in the union contracts that specify the new hires, it appears that the
16 reason for the new hires is to reduce the Company's reliance on outside contractors
17 to perform certain functions (response to Division Data Request 1-20). In the 2008
18 test year, the Company incurred approximately \$10 million of outside contractor
19 expense related to distribution operation and maintenance activities (response to
20 Division Data Request 10-10), so the potential to replace the payments to outside
21 contractors with in-house labor certainly exists.

22

23 Q. What do you recommend?

1 A. The Company has not established that the new hires that are the subject of the pro
2 forma adjustment will actually result in any net increase to operation and
3 maintenance expense. Based on the language in the union contracts requiring the
4 new hires and the amount expended on outside contractors in the 2008 test year, it is
5 highly likely that the increase to wage and salary expense related to the new hires will
6 be offset by reductions to outside contractor expenses. Therefore, the Company's
7 proposed pro forma adjustment to increase test year operation and maintenance
8 expense by \$1,363,000 for contracted union hiring requirements should be eliminated
9 (Schedule DJE-4).

10

11 c. Customer Assistance Advocate Expense

12 Q. Please explain the Company's proposed pro forma adjustment for customer
13 assistance advocate personnel.

14 A. .As described in the testimony of Mr. Wynter, the Company is proposing to add
15 personnel to serve in a Consumer Advocacy role that would improve
16 implementation of the Company's low income discount and other public benefit
17 programs. Pro forma test year operation and maintenance expense has been
18 increased by \$182,000 to recognize the costs of two additional employees
19 associated with this program (Schedule NG-RLO-2, page 16).

20

21 Q. Should this pro forma adjustment be included in the determination of the
22 Company's revenue requirement?

1 A. No. The Company has not established that these additional employees are
2 necessary or that National Grid is the appropriate party to fill the role of Consumer
3 Advocate with regard to low income and other public benefit programs.
4 Accordingly, I have reduced pro forma test year operation and maintenance expense
5 by \$182,000 to eliminate the cost of customer assistance advocate personnel from
6 the Company's revenue requirement (Schedule DJE-4). I have also eliminated the
7 related payroll taxes from pro forma taxes other than income taxes from the
8 Company's cost of service (Schedule DJE-6).

9

10 d. Rate Case Expense

11 Q. Has the Company included rate case expense in pro forma test year operating
12 expenses?

13 A. Yes. The Company includes \$865,000 of rate case expense in pro forma test year
14 operation and maintenance expenses. This annual expense level is based on
15 normalizing the estimated cost of the present case, \$1,730,000, over two years
16 (Exhibit NG-RLO-2, page 18).

17

18 Q. In your opinion, is this reasonable?

19 A. No. The Company's has not had a rate case for a number of years. While economic
20 conditions and other circumstances have changed over time, I do not believe that
21 this history should be entirely ignored. Based on the time interval between the
22 Company's cases in recent years, I believe that a normalization period of at least
23 five years would be more appropriate. Normalizing the rate case cost over five

1 years rather than the two years reflected by the Company reduces annual rate case
2 expense by \$519,000 (Schedule DJE-4)

3

4 e. Customer Contact Activities

5 Q. Please describe the Company's pro forma adjustment for customer contact
6 activities.

7 A. The Company intends to increase its collection efforts in order to control its write-
8 offs of accounts receivable and uncollectible accounts expense. National Grid
9 estimates that the increased efforts will lead to expenses of \$376,000 over and above
10 the expenses incurred in the 2008 test year and proposes to adjust 2008 test year
11 operation and maintenance expense by this amount. The additional expenses relate
12 mainly to increases in outbound and inbound call volume.

13

14 Q. Should actual test year expenses be adjusted to recognize the additional cost
15 associated with the increased collection efforts?

16 A. No. The efforts should pay for themselves. That is, to the extent that the increased
17 collection efforts are successful, write-offs and uncollectible accounts expense will be
18 reduced accordingly. The Company should be willing to incur the incremental
19 expense of increased collection efforts only to the extent that such efforts can
20 reasonably be expected reduce the write-offs of accounts receivable, no more and no
21 less. As these efforts should pay for themselves through decreased write-offs, it is
22 unnecessary to increase test year operation and maintenance expenses for the

1 incremental cost of the collection efforts. Therefore, pro forma test year operation
2 and maintenance expenses should be reduced by \$376,000 (Schedule DJE-4).

3

4 f. Economic Development Program

5 Q. Has the Company adjusted test year operation and maintenance expense for the cost
6 of its proposed Economic Development Pilot Program?

7 A. Yes. Pro forma test year operation and maintenance expense includes \$1,000,000 for
8 the Company's proposed Economic Development Pilot Program. As described in
9 the testimony of Company Witness Fields, the purpose of this program is to enable
10 National Grid to "become a significant contributor to economic development in
11 Rhode Island."

12

13 Q. Should the \$1.0 million expense of the proposed Economic Development Pilot
14 Program be included in the Company's distribution service revenue requirement?

15 A. No. First, this expense is not necessary for the provision of distribution service.
16 Second, the Company has not clearly established that being a significant contributor
17 to economic development is a critical function of an electric distribution utility.
18 Third, if the program is implemented and it is successful in retaining and adding
19 load, it should pay for itself; that is, the incremental sales and revenues should be at
20 least equal to the annual expense. Mr. Oliver provides additional analysis of the
21 Company's proposed economic development program in his testimony.

22

23 Q. What do you recommend?

1 A. The \$1,000,000 for the Economic Development Pilot Program should be eliminated
2 from the Company's distribution service revenue requirement (Schedule DJE-4).

3

4 g. Uncollectible Accounts Expense

5 Q. Have you reviewed the Company's calculation of pro forma test year uncollectible
6 accounts expense?

7 A. Yes. The Company calculated uncollectible accounts expense based on the average
8 net write-offs as a percentage of revenues for 2007 and 2008. The calculation of the
9 pro forma test year uncollectible accounts expense is shown on Exhibit NG-RLO-2,
10 Page 25. As can be seen on this schedule, the Company includes transmission
11 revenues and tracker revenues in the revenue base to which charge-off ratio is applied
12 in the calculation of pro forma uncollectible accounts expense.

13

14 Q. What is the Company's stated reason for including transmission revenues in the base
15 for calculating uncollectible accounts expense?

16 A. In response to Division Data Request 1-24, the Company stated that the transmission
17 revenues are included in the calculation of the uncollectible accounts expense
18 because the Company bears the risk and absorbs the uncollectible charge-off when
19 the delivery charges related to transmission expenses are not paid.

20 .

21 Q. Is this an appropriate reason to include the transmission revenues in the pro forma
22 revenues to which the average charge-off rate is applied in the calculation of pro
23 forma uncollectible accounts expense?

1 A. No. The Company's method includes uncollectible accounts expense properly
2 allocable to transmission service in the determination of the distribution service
3 revenue requirement. Uncollectible accounts expenses related to distribution service
4 are assigned to the distribution cost of service, and uncollectible accounts expenses
5 related to transmission service should be assigned to the transmission cost of service
6 Therefore, the transmission revenues should be eliminated from the base in the
7 calculation of pro forma uncollectible accounts expense applicable to distribution
8 service.

9

10 Q. What is the effect of your proposed adjustment to the Company's pro forma
11 uncollectible accounts expense?

12 A. The elimination of the transmission revenues from the base on which uncollectible
13 accounts expense is calculated reduces pro forma uncollectible accounts expenses by
14 \$894,000 using the adjusted write-off percentage recommended by Mr. Gay.

15

16 Q. Have you also adjusted the uncollectible accounts expense to reflect your proposed
17 base rate revenue requirement?

18 A. Yes. The allowance for uncollectible accounts is calculated as a percentage of the
19 other components of the cost of service. Therefore, the pro forma uncollectible
20 accounts expense is affected by the other adjustments to the Company's revenue
21 requirement. My calculation of the uncollectible accounts expense on my proposed
22 base rate revenue requirement using the adjusted write-off percentage recommended
23 by Mr. Gay is shown on Schedule DJE-3.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23

Q. Is the Company also proposing to establish a mechanism to recover increases in uncollectible accounts expense related to delivery services to the extent such uncollectible accounts expense exceed the expense included in the establishment of the base rate revenue requirement in this case?

A. Yes. As explained in the testimony of Company Witness Wynter, National Grid is requesting that an adjustment mechanism be established whereby delivery related net write-offs in excess of \$500,000 more than the uncollectible accounts expense included in the delivery services revenue requirement in this case would be subject to reconciliation and recovery.

Q. Is the Company's proposed reconciliation mechanism for increases in net write-offs of uncollectible accounts related to delivery service appropriate?

A. No. As a general matter, reconciliation mechanisms are contrary to sound ratemaking practice, as such mechanisms tend to either reduce or eliminate incentives to control costs authorized under standard ratemaking. The Company presents its proposal as a mechanism to mitigate potential financial impairment resulting from increases in uncollectible accounts expenses. However, the Company has not provided any measurement of potential financial impairment from increases in uncollectible accounts; nor has the Company compared the magnitude or volatility of uncollectible accounts expenses relative to other costs for which there is no reconciliation mechanism.

1 Q. In addition to these general concerns with the Company's proposal to reconcile
2 delivery related uncollectible accounts expense, are there any specific problems with
3 the mechanism presented by the Company?

4 A. Yes. First, the Company's proposal does not explicitly distinguish between increased
5 write-offs that take place simply as a result of increased sales and increased write-offs
6 that take place as a result of higher percentage of billed revenues being uncollectible.
7 Obviously, to the extent that uncollectible accounts expense increase simply because
8 of increased sales and revenue, no separate recovery of that increased uncollectible
9 accounts expense would be necessary or appropriate.¹

10 Second the Company's proposed mechanism is one-sided, in that it would
11 permit the Company to recover increases in uncollectible accounts expense but would
12 not require any symmetrical credit to customers if the write-offs turn out to be less
13 than the uncollectible accounts expense included in the delivery service revenue
14 requirement.

15

16 Q. Should the Company's proposed mechanism to reconcile increases in delivery service
17 uncollectible accounts be approved?

18 A. No. Such reconciling mechanisms are appropriate only for expenses that are large,
19 volatile, and beyond the utility company's control. The Company has not established
20 that its proposed mechanism to reconcile increases in delivery service uncollectible
21 accounts is necessary to protect its financial integrity. In addition, the mechanism as

¹ As proposed, the Company would be able to recover only because of circumstances beyond its control. However, it appears that an increase in uncollectible accounts related to an increase in sales could open the door to arguing that other circumstances also affected uncollectible accounts.

1 proposed has the potential to recover increases in write-offs due to increased sales
2 and is also one-sided. Finally, the reconciling mechanism would shift risk from the
3 Company to its ratepayers for an expense over which the Company has some control,
4 but over which ratepayers have no control.

5

6 h. Storm Fund Accrual

7 Q. What is the status of the Company's storm fund?

8 A. As of May 31, 2009 there was a surplus (credit balance) of \$21,692,000 in the storm
9 fund (response to Commission Data Request 1-107). This credit balance represents
10 the cumulative excess of accruals to the fund recovered through rates over eligible
11 storm fund costs incurred since the establishment of the fund. The present annual
12 accrual to the storm fund is \$1,041,000. In addition, the storm fund is also credited for
13 interest on the accumulated balance and 50% of attachment fee revenue in excess of
14 \$850,000.

15

16 Q. Are you proposing to modify the present storm fund accrual?

17 A. Yes. I believe that the present credit balance, along with the continuing credits for
18 interest and attachment fee revenue, is more than adequate to provide for all but the
19 most catastrophic of storms. Therefore, I am proposing to suspend the annual
20 accrual to the storm fund. Suspension of the storm fund accrual has the effect of
21 reducing pro forma test year operation and maintenance expenses by \$1,041,000
22 (Schedule DJE-4).

23

1 i. Storm Damage Expense

2 Q. In addition to the accruals to storm fund, did the Company charge actual storm
3 repair and restoration costs to operation and maintenance expenses in the 2008 test
4 year?

5 A. Yes. If the costs of repairs and restoration associated with any particular storm fall
6 below the threshold amount (\$728,000 in 2008) those costs are charged to operation
7 and maintenance expenses rather than being charged against the storm damage
8 reserve (response to Division Data Request 23-1A). The Company charged
9 \$5,168,000 of such storm damage costs to operation and maintenance expense in
10 2008.

11
12 Q. How does that compare to storm damage costs charged to operation and
13 maintenance expense in other recent years?

14 A. It is significantly higher. In response to Division Data Request 23-1B, the
15 Company provided the storm damage costs charged to operation and maintenance
16 expense in the years 2004 – 2008. In the years 2004 – 2007, such costs ranged from
17 \$437,000 to \$4,113,000. The storm damage costs charged to expenses in 2008 was
18 well in excess of the normal level of such expenses in other recent years.

19
20 Q. Are you proposing to adjust the level of storm damage expenses included in the
21 Company's revenue requirement?

22 A. Yes. The storm damage costs charged to expense vary widely from year to year.
23 The expense included in the revenue requirement should reflect a normal level of

1 expense that the Company can reasonably expect to incur on a prospective basis.
2 The expense incurred in 2008 was clearly higher than the normal level of expense
3 and should be normalized for the purpose of determining the Company's revenue
4 requirement.

5
6 Q. What do you recommend?

7 A. The average of storm damage costs charged to operation and maintenance expense
8 in the years 2004 – 2008 was \$3,164,000. I believe this five year average is
9 reasonably representative of the normal annual level of storm damage expense that
10 the Company can expect to incur over time. This five years average is \$2,001,000
11 less than the storm damage expense incurred in 2008. Therefore, I propose to
12 reduce pro forma test year operation and maintenance expenses by \$2,001,000, in
13 order to normalize the storm damage expenses included in the Company' revenue
14 requirement (Schedule DJE-4).

15

16 j. Injuries and Damages Expense

17 Q. What was the amount of injuries and damages expense recorded by the Company in
18 the 2008 test year?

19 A. The injury and damages expense (Account 925) recorded by the Company in 2008
20 was \$7,055,000.

21

22 Q. How does that compare to injuries and damages expenses recorded in other recent
23 years?

1 A. It was well in excess of the injuries and damages expenses in other recent years.
2 For example, in 2007 the injuries and damages expense was \$3,888,000, and the
3 average expense in the years 2005 – 2007 was approximately \$4.2 million.

4

5 Q. Has the Company explained why the injuries and damages expense was so much
6 higher in 2008?

7 A. Yes. In response to Division Data Request 1-29, the Company noted that the
8 increase in the 2008 expense over the 2007 expense was due to an increase of \$2.5
9 million to the claims reserve. In response to Division Data Request 23-3, the
10 Company further explained that the increase in the claims reserve was related to
11 financial terms associated with the potential settlement of litigation of a case from
12 2004.

13

14 Q. Is the magnitude of the increase to the claims reserve recorded in 2008 a normal,
15 recurring expense?

16 A. No. Based on the Company's description of the circumstances and the effect of this
17 increase to the reserve on the expense recorded in 2008, an adjustment to the claims
18 reserve of this magnitude is not a normal, recurring event.

19

20 Q. Are you proposing to adjust the test year injuries and damages expenses for the
21 purpose of determining the Company's revenue requirement?

22 A. Yes. As the \$2.5 million increase to the reserve for injuries and damages is not a
23 normal, recurring expense that the Company is likely to record on annual basis

1 prospectively, it should be eliminated from the cost of service. Therefore, I am
2 proposing to reduce pro forma injuries and damages expense by \$2,500,000
3 (Schedule DJE-4). It should be noted that even after this adjustment, the pro forma
4 injuries and damages expense included in the Company's cost of service is still
5 greater than the average injuries and damages expense recorded in the years 2005 –
6 2007.

7

8 k. Outside Legal Fees

9 Q. Have you reviewed the expenses for outside legal services incurred by the Company
10 in the 2008 test year?

11 A. Yes. The response to Commission Data Request 1-93 listed outside legal fees
12 incurred in each of the last three years. Further detail was provided in the response
13 to Division Data Request 10-27.

14

15 Q. Are you proposing any adjustments to the 2008 test year expense for outside legal
16 fees?

17 A. Yes. As described by the Company in response to Division Data Request 10-27,
18 the expenses incurred in 2008 include \$419,000 of legal fees related to the
19 Constellation Energy FCM Dispute Matter involving the applicability of the fuel
20 adjustment factor to the calculation of certain power supply payments. It is my
21 understanding that this matter has now been resolved. Therefore, this expense will
22 not be incurred prospectively and should be removed from the Company's revenue

1 requirement. Accordingly, I have reduced pro forma test year expenses by
2 \$419,000 (Schedule DJE-4).

3

4 I. Load Response Credit

5 Q. Did the Company receive a load response credit from the Independent System
6 Operator (“ISO”) in 2009?

7 A. Yes. Based on the response to Division Data Request 1-29, the Company
8 received an ISO load response credit of \$300,000 in 2009. The response to the
9 data request also appears to indicate that the credit received in 2009 is applicable
10 to 2008 expenses. The ISO load response credit is a reduction to Account 910 –
11 Miscellaneous Customer Service and Informational Expense, which is a
12 component of the distribution service revenue requirement.

13

14 Q. Are you proposing to adjust 2008 test year operation and maintenance expenses
15 for the ISO load response credit received in 2009?

16 A. Yes. As noted above, based on the Company’s response to Division Data request 1-
17 29, it appears that credit received in 2009 was actually applicable to 2008. Therefore,
18 test year operation and maintenance expense should be reduced by \$300,000 to reflect
19 the ISO load response credit received in 2009 (Schedule DJE-4). In response to
20 Division Data Request 23-2, the Company noted that it expects such credits to
21 decrease in the future. However, it is my understanding that the purpose of credits is
22 to compensate the Company for expenses incurred in administering the load response

1 program. Thus, it would appear that future decreases in the level of credits would be
2 based on decreased administrative costs.

3

4 m. Merger Synergies and Costs to Achieve

5 Q. Has the Company included expense adjustments related to merger synergies and the
6 costs to achieve (“CTA”) those synergies in its pro forma cost of service?

7 A. Yes. The Company has reflected synergies and CTA associated with the
8 acquisition of KeySpan by National Grid USA. The Company estimates that the
9 annual “steady state” synergies from the National Grid/KeySpan transaction will be
10 \$8,600,000. This exceeds the estimated synergies of \$2,400,000 achieved in the
11 2008 test year by \$6,200,000. The Company thus proposes a pro forma adjustment
12 to reduce pro forma expenses by \$6,200,000 to recognize the excess of the rate year
13 synergies over test year synergies. This pro forma adjustment is reduced by
14 \$2,100,000 amortization of CTA and by \$3,250,000 to recognize the 50%
15 investors’ share of net synergy savings.² The net effect of the Company’s proposed
16 pro forma adjustments is a reduction to pro forma expenses of \$850,000. National
17 Grid is also proposing to include the \$2,100,000 CTA amortization and the
18 investors 50% of net synergies of \$3,250,000, a total of \$5,350,000, in its cost of
19 service in future cases arising in the next ten years (response to Division Data
20 Request 1-34).

21

² The \$3,250,000 is calculated as one half of steady state annual savings of \$8,600,000 net of \$2,100,000 amortization of costs to achieve.

1 Q. Are you proposing to modify the synergies (net of CTA) amortization included in
2 the determination of the Company's prospective rate year revenue requirement in
3 this case?

4 A. Yes. The total of CTA allocable to Narragansett Electric Company is \$16,005,000.
5 Of this amount, \$8,610,000 is incurred in Year 1 and Year 2 following the merger
6 (Schedule NG-RLO-3, page 3). The CTA incurred in Year 1 and Year 2 have
7 obviously not been explicitly recovered from customers. However, the total synergy
8 savings realized in Year 1 and Year 2 are estimated to have been \$9,471,000. Just as
9 clearly, these synergy savings have been of no benefit to customers and have been
10 retained entirely for the benefit of shareholders. In effect, these retained synergy
11 savings have recovered (or, in this case, somewhat more than recovered) the CTA
12 incurred in Year 1 and Year 2. That is, the CTA incurred in Year 1 and Year 2 have
13 more than paid for themselves by expense reductions retained by shareholders.
14 Consequently, the Year 1 and Year 2 CTA should not also be recovered from
15 ratepayers prospectively, as this would result in a double recovery.

16 The CTA to be recovered prospectively is the total CTA of \$16,005,000 less
17 the CTA in Year 1 and Year 2 of \$8,610,000, or \$7,395,000. I recommend that this
18 amount be amortized over eight years, the remainder of the ten year time frame
19 considered in the Company's synergy savings analysis. This results in annual CTA
20 expense of \$924,000, which is \$1,176,000 less than the CTA amortization included
21 by the Company in its revenue requirement. Accordingly, I recommend that pro
22 forma rate year expenses be reduced by \$1,176,000 (Schedule DJE-4).

23

1 Q. Should the Company's proposal to include its retained share of the savings and the
2 CTA amortization in its revenue requirement in future cases be subject to
3 conditions?

4 A. Yes. The inclusion of the expected synergy savings in the present case should not
5 be deemed to be a finding that the savings have actually been achieved *and* will
6 continue in effect for the next ten years. The Commission should not approve the
7 inclusion of these expenses in future rate cases unless the Company can
8 demonstrate that the forecasted "steady state" synergies have been achieved, are
9 actually continuing, and are inuring to the benefit of ratepayers. Further, if the
10 Company can establish the synergy savings have been achieved and are continuing,
11 the shared savings expense and CTA amortization (at the reduced level of
12 \$924,000) should be included for only eight years, which would approximately
13 match the time frame of the synergy savings study.

14

15 **2. Depreciation Expense**

16 Q. Have you reflected an adjustment to test year depreciation expense in your
17 calculation of the rate year cost of service?

18 A. Yes. As depreciation expense is calculated by applying the relevant depreciation
19 accrual rates to the depreciable plant in service, my proposed adjustment to plant in
20 service (addressed in my testimony on rate base) affects the rate year depreciation
21 expense. The adjustment to depreciation expense resulting from my proposed
22 adjustment to plant in service is shown on Schedule DJE-5.

23

1 **3. Taxes Other Than Income Taxes**

2 Q. Are you proposing any adjustments to the taxes other than income taxes included
3 by the Company in its revenue requirement?

4 A. Yes. Certain of my adjustments to operation and maintenance expenses entail the
5 elimination of wages and salaries. Consistent with those adjustments, I am
6 proposing to eliminate the related payroll taxes. My adjustments to payroll taxes
7 are shown on Schedule DJE-6.

8 I am also proposing to adjust the pro forma municipal tax expense. On
9 Schedule NG-RLO-2, page 26, the actual test year municipal tax expense includes
10 the amortization of a refund from the City of Providence that reduced the 2008
11 expense by \$883,000. The Company did not include the amortization of the refund
12 in the pro forma rate year municipal tax expense. In response to Division Data
13 Request 1-25, the Company acknowledged that the amortization of the refund
14 should be included in the rate year municipal tax expense. Therefore, on Schedule
15 DJE-6, I have reduced pro forma municipal tax expense by \$883,000 to reflect the
16 amortization of the refund from the City of Providence.

17

18 **4. Income Tax Expense**

19 Q. Have you calculated the pro forma income tax expense to be included in the
20 Company's revenue requirement?

21 A. Yes. I have calculated the pro forma income tax expense on my Schedule DJE-7. I
22 have used what is commonly referred to as the "return method" of calculating pro
23 forma income tax expense. This method begins by calculating the taxable income

1 base (that is, the net income after income tax expense) by applying the weighted
2 return on equity to the rate base and adjusting the product of that calculation by
3 permanent tax reconciling items. To determine the taxable income, the adjusted net
4 income must then be grossed up, as the income tax expense itself is not deductible
5 for federal income taxes. Finally, the income tax rate of 35% is applied to the
6 taxable income to calculate the pro forma income tax expense to be included in the
7 Company's revenue requirement. This method has traditionally been employed by
8 the Commission in calculating pro forma income tax expense. Although the
9 mechanics of this calculation are different from the method shown on Schedule
10 NG-RLO-2, page 29, there is no substantive difference.

11

12 **5. Return on Rate Base**

13 Q. How is the return on rate base to be included in the total revenue requirement
14 calculated?

15 A. The return on rate base is calculated by multiplying the rate of return by the rate
16 base. The rate base is the net investment in facilities necessary to provide utility
17 service. I am proposing adjustments to rate base, and I have incorporated the
18 recommendation of Mr. Kahal on rate of return into my calculation of the required
19 return on rate base.

20

21 a. Rate Base – Net Plant in Service

22 Q. How did the Company determine the balance of gross utility plant that it is proposing
23 to include in its pro forma rate base?

1 A. The gross utility plant included in rate base is the forecasted average balance for the
2 twelve months ending December 31, 2010, the Company's rate year. The Company
3 began with the actual balance of plant as of December 31, 2008, the end of the test
4 year, and then adjusted that balance for forecasted additions to and retirements from
5 plant in through December 31, 2010. The average balance of gross utility plant
6 forecasted by the Company for its rate year is \$1,232,747,000 (Schedule NG-RLO-2,
7 page 34).

8

9 Q. Have you analyzed the Company's forecast of gross utility plant for the twelve
10 months ending December 31, 2010?

11 A. Yes. I have reviewed the budgeted additions to plant for 2009 and 2010. I have also
12 compared the Company's forecasts of additions and retirements in those fiscal years
13 to actual additions and retirements in recent years, and I have reviewed the actual and
14 budgeted additions to plant in service from January 2009 through July 2009.

15

16 Q. Based on your analysis, are you proposing to adjust the forecasted plant balance
17 included in rate base by the Company?

18 A. Yes. Referring to Attachment NG-RLO-2, Page 34, it can be seen that the Company
19 is forecasting additions to plant in service of \$59,949,000 in the twelve months
20 ending December 31, 2009 and \$75,932,000 in the twelve months ending December
21 31, 2010. These forecasts substantially exceed the general level of actual additions to
22 plant in service in recent years (with the exception of 2008) and also the rate of actual

1 additions to plant in service since the end of the test year. Accordingly, I recommend
2 that the Company's forecast of additions to plant in service be modified.

3

4 Q. How are you proposing to modify the Company's forecast of plant additions
5 through the end of the rate year?

6 A. My proposed adjustments to the Company's forecast of rate year plant in service and
7 the accumulated reserve for depreciation are shown on Schedule DJE-8.1. The
8 Company provided the actual plant in service as of June 30, 2009 in the response to
9 Division Data Request 1-3. As this reflects actual additions to, and retirement from,
10 plant in service through June 30, 2009, I believe that it serves as appropriate starting
11 point for the projection of rate year plant in service.

12 The next step on Schedule DJE-8.1 is to project the plant in service as of the
13 end of 2009. Based on the response to Division Data Request 23-5, the gross
14 additions to plant in service averaged approximately \$4 million per month from
15 January through July 2009, with the additions being relatively steady from month to
16 month. Therefore, it is reasonable to project the plant in service as of December 31,
17 2009 by assuming that the net balance of plant in service will increase by the same
18 amount in the last six months of 2009 as it did in the first six months. This results in
19 a projected balance of plant in service of \$1,191,604,000 as of December 31, 2009.³

20

21 Q. What is the next step of your projection of the rate year plant in service?

³ This projection also implicitly assumes that the retirements from plant in service will take place in the last six months of 2009 at the same rate as they did in the first six months.

1 A. The next step is to project the additions to, and retirements from, plant in service in
2 2010. The Company has forecasted plant additions of \$75.9 million in 2010, an
3 increase of approximately 25% over the forecasted plant additions in 2009, and an
4 increase of approximately 58% over the actual rate of plant additions for the first
5 seven months of 2009. However, the trend of plant additions to date in 2009 shows
6 no signs of increasing to anything like the level forecasted by the Company for
7 2010. In fact, the additions to plant in the first seven months of 2009 were well
8 below the rate of plant additions in 2008. Based on the response to Division Data
9 Request 23-5, the actual plant additions in 2009 have averaged \$4,025,000 per
10 month, which translates into an annual rate of plant additions of \$48,300,000. I
11 have used this as the annual rate of plant additions in 2010 for the purpose of
12 calculating the plant in service as of the end of the rate year and the average balance
13 of plant in service for the rate year.

14 The Company has forecasted retirements based on 13.37% of plant
15 additions. I have applied this percentage to the projected rate year plant additions,
16 which results in projected rate year retirements of \$6,458,000.

17

18 Q. What is the effect of your proposed adjustments to the Company's forecast of plant
19 additions through the end of the rate year?

20 A. I have calculated an average rate year balance of plant in service of \$1,212,525,000
21 (Schedule DJE-8.1). This is \$20,222,000 less than the balance of rate year plant in
22 service forecasted by the Company (Schedule DJE-8).

1 As the pro forma rate year depreciation expense is calculated by applying
2 the composite depreciation rate to the average balance of rate year plant, my
3 proposed adjustment to plant in service also affects the pro forma depreciation
4 expense. On Schedule, DJE-5, I have calculated a reduction of \$688,000 to pro
5 forma rate year depreciation expense related to the adjustment to plant in service.

6

7 Q. Have you also adjusted the projected rate year balance of the accumulated reserve
8 for depreciation?

9 A. Yes. My calculation of the rate year balance of the accumulated reserve for
10 depreciation is also shown on Schedule DJE-8.1. As with plant in service, I have
11 used the actual balance of accumulated depreciation at June 30, 2009 (response to
12 Division Data Request 1-3) as my starting point. Consistent with the method used
13 to project plant in service, I have projected the accumulated depreciation as of
14 December 31, 2009 by assuming that the net balance will increase by the same
15 amount in the last six months of 2009 as it did in the first six months.⁴

16 With regard to the projection of the rate year balance of accumulated
17 depreciation, I have used a method similar to that of the Company. The addition to
18 the reserve for depreciation expense reflects my rate year depreciation expense.
19 The Company calculated the cost of removal as a percentage of plant additions.
20 However, based on the response to Division Data Request 1-1, there does not
21 appear to be any correlation between the cost of removal and plant additions.

⁴ This implicitly assumes that the depreciation expense, retirements, and cost of removal will be the same in the last six months as in the first six months.

1 Therefore, I have used the actual average cost of removal for the years 2006-2008
2 as the estimate of cost of removal in the rate year.

3 I have calculated an average rate year depreciation reserve balance of
4 \$518,922,000 (Schedule DJE-8.1). This is \$2,397,000 greater than the balance
5 projected by the Company (Schedule DJE-8).

6

7 b. Rate Base – Cash Working Capital

8 Q. How did the Company determine the cash working capital allowance that it
9 includes in its rate base?

10 A. The calculation of the Company's cash working capital allowance is addressed in
11 the testimony of Mr. O'Brien and summarized on Schedule NG-RLO-2, Page 38.
12 The cash working capital is based on a study that measures the cash requirement to
13 bridge the gap between the disbursement of cash to pay expenses and the receipt of
14 cash for service rendered to cover the relevant rate year expenses.

15

16 Q. Are you proposing to adjust the cash working capital requirement calculated by the
17 Company?

18 A. Yes. I am proposing two modifications. First, the cash working capital summary
19 on Schedule NG-RLO-2, Page 38 includes an allowance for CTC Expense. I am
20 proposing to remove this item from the cash working capital allowance included in
21 the distribution service rate base. Second, I am proposing to modify the CWC
22 percentage assigned to municipal taxes in the calculation of the cash working
23 capital allowance.

1

2 Q. Why should the CTC Expense be removed from the cash working capital allowance
3 included in the distribution service rate base?

4 A. The CTC (Contract Termination Charge) is recovered by means of a separate fully
5 reconciling rate mechanism, pursuant to settlements in FERC Docket Nos. ER97-
6 680-000 and ER98-6-000. All CTC costs eligible for recovery are addressed in
7 those settlements. To the extent that the CTC is under or over-recovered in any
8 given year, a return is calculated on such under or over-recovery and included in the
9 reconciliation. To my knowledge, there is no provision for a separate return on any
10 cash working capital effect of the CTC expense, and it is inappropriate to include a
11 cash working capital allowance for CTC expense in the determination of the
12 distribution service revenue requirement. Elimination of the CTC expense reduces
13 the cash working capital allowance by \$371,000 (Schedule DJE-8.2).

14

15 Q. What modification to the CWC percentage assigned to municipal taxes in the
16 calculation of the cash working capital allowance are you proposing?

17 A. The municipal tax expense on Schedule NG-RLO-2, page 38 shows the municipal
18 tax expense as having a 33.77% CWC percentage. In other words, the Company
19 has calculated that the municipal tax expense is paid out approximately 123 days
20 before that expense is recovered in rates from customers. By contrast in Docket
21 No. 3943, (National Grid – RI Gas), the same company calculated a municipal tax
22 CWC percentage of -8.82%, which indicates that this expense is recovered in rates
23 approximately 32 days before cash is disbursed in payment of the expense. As the

1 municipal taxes are paid from the same utility company to substantially the same
2 taxing authorities, such a discrepancy is not logical.

3 In response to Division Data Request 1-5, the Company explained the CWC
4 percentage in Docket No. 3943 was calculated using an annual period of January to
5 December, while the calculation on Schedule NG-RLO-2, Page 38 reflects the use
6 of an annual period July to June, which matches the “typical” fiscal period for
7 municipal taxes. In my opinion, this is not an adequate explanation of the
8 discrepancy. The only relevant factor is when the expense is recovered in rates in
9 comparison to when cash is disbursed in payment of the expense. The Company
10 has cited no valid reason why the lead or lag for this item should be different in this
11 case from what it was in the gas rate case. Therefore, the CWC percentage for
12 municipal taxes on Schedule NG-RLO-2, Page 38 should be modified.

13
14 Q. What do you recommend?

15 A. I recommend that the CWC percentage assigned to municipal taxes in this case be
16 set at -8.82%, the same percentage that was found to be appropriate in the recent
17 National Grid gas rate case. This modification reduces the cash working capital
18 allowance by \$8,477,000 (Schedule DJE-8.2).

19
20 c. Accumulated Deferred Income Taxes

21 Q. Are you proposing to adjust the Company’s forecasted rate year balance of
22 accumulated deferred income taxes (“ADIT”)?

1 A. Yes. Consistent with my calculation of rate year plant in service and depreciation
2 reserve, I have begun with the actual balance of June 30, 2009, as shown in the
3 response to Division Data Request 1-3. I then projected that balance to the mid-
4 point of the rate year by assuming the balance would grow at the same rate that it
5 did from March 31, 2009 to June 30, 2009. This method results in a projected rate
6 year balance of \$119,964,000, which \$6,876,000 greater than the rate year balance
7 forecasted by the Company (Schedule DJE-8).

8

9 d. Rate of Return

10 Q. What rate of return have you used to calculate the return requirement to be included
11 in the total cost of service?

12 A. I have used the rate of return of 7.78% proposed by Mr. Kahal to calculate the
13 required return on rate base.

14

15 Q. What return on rate base have you calculated?

16 A. I have calculated a required return on rate base of \$45,537,000 (Schedule DJE-8)
17 and included this return requirement in the Company's total revenue requirement.

18

19 **IV. DISTRIBUTION ADJUSTMENT PROVISION**

20 Q. Have you reviewed the Distribution Adjustment Provision included in the
21 Company's proposed tariffs?

22 A. Yes. I have addressed the Delivery Bad Debt element of the proposed Distribution
23 Adjustment Provision above. The remainder of the Distribution Adjustment

1 Provision relates to changes in the Company's revenue requirements resulting from
2 legislative, regulatory, and accounting changes and from regulatory reallocation of
3 costs to or from the distribution function.

4

5 Q. Should the Distribution Adjustment Provision as proposed by the Company be
6 approved?

7 A. No. The Company's tariff language in the proposed Distribution Adjustment
8 Provision is based on language in the Settlement in Docket 2930 (Narragansett
9 Electric Company, 2000) that established a rate plan with a five year rate freeze.
10 The purpose of that language in the Settlement in Docket 2930 was to allow
11 Narragansett to adjust rates for exogenous events that might occur during the term
12 of the rate freeze, because Narragansett was otherwise prohibited from adjusting
13 rates. The present case does not entail a freeze on National Grid's rates for five
14 years or for any other period. Therefore, the tariff provisions to address exogenous
15 events are unnecessary.

16

17 Q. Does this conclude your direct testimony?

18 A. Yes.

NATIONAL GRID - RI ELECTRIC
RATE YEAR REVENUE REQUIREMENT
(\$000)

| | (A) Company <u>Position</u> | <u>Adjustments</u> | | Division <u>Position</u> |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-----|-----------------------------|
| Base Rate Cost of Service | \$ 288,776 | \$ (38,693) | (B) | \$ 250,083 |
| Commodity Cost Tracker | <u>9,752</u> | <u>-</u> | | <u>9,752</u> |
| Total Cost of Service | 298,528 | (38,693) | | 259,835 |
| Commodity Cost Tracker | 9,752 | - | | 9,752 |
| Other Miscellaneous Revenues | <u>7,699</u> | <u>-</u> | | <u>7,699</u> |
| Base Rate Revenue Requirement | \$ 281,077 | \$ (38,693) | | \$ 242,384 |
| Base Rate Revenues, Present Rates | <u>215,543</u> | <u>-</u> | | <u>215,543</u> |
| Revenue Deficiency | <u>\$ 65,534</u> | <u>\$ (38,693)</u> | | <u>\$ 26,841</u> |
| Percentage Rate Increase | <u>30.40%</u> | | | <u>12.45%</u> |

Notes:

- (A) NG-RLO-1, Page 1
- (B) Schedule DJE-2

NATIONAL GRID - RI ELECTRIC
COST OF SERVICE
(\$000)

| | (A) Company Position | Adjustments | | Division Position |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-----|-----------------------|
| Uncollectible Accounts Expense | \$ 5,020 | \$ (2,924) | (B) | \$ 2,096 |
| Other Op & Maint Expense | 142,438 | (19,260) | (C) | 123,178 |
| Depreciation and Amortization | 41,466 | (688) | (D) | 40,778 |
| Taxes Other Than Income Taxes | 24,060 | (962) | (E) | 23,098 |
| Loss on Reacquired Debt | 686 | | | 686 |
| Interest in Customer Deposits | 75 | | | 75 |
| Income Taxes | 18,999 | (4,366) | (F) | 14,633 |
| Return on Rate Base | <u>56,031</u> | <u>(10,494)</u> | (G) | <u>45,537</u> |
| Total Base Rate Cost of Service | \$ 288,776 | \$ (38,693) | | \$ 250,083 |
| Commodity Cost Tracker | <u>9,752</u> | <u>-</u> | | <u>9,752</u> |
| Total Cost of Service | <u>\$ 298,528</u> | <u>\$ (38,693)</u> | | <u>\$ 259,835</u> |

Sources:

- (A) NG-RLO-2, Page 1
- (B) Schedule DJE-3
- (C) Schedule DJE-4
- (D) Schedule DJE-5
- (E) Schedule DJE-6
- (F) Schedule DJE-7
- (G) Schedule DJE-8

NATIONAL GRID - RI ELECTRIC
 ADJUSTMENTS TO UNCOLLECTIBLE ACCOUNTS EXPENSE
 (\$000)

| | | |
|--|-----|-----------------|
| Base Rate Cost of Service Excl. Uncollectible Accounts | (A) | \$ 247,987 |
| Transition and Conservation Revenues | (B) | <u>45,130</u> |
| Total Revenues Subject to Write-offs | | 293,117 |
| | | |
| Grossed-up Write-off Rate | | <u>0.715%</u> |
| | | |
| Pro Forma Uncollectible Accounts Expense | | <u>\$ 2,096</u> |

Sources:

- (A) Schedule DJE-2
- (B) NG-RLO-2, Page 25
- (C) Testimony of Mr. Gay 0.0071/(1-0.0071)

Schedule DJE-4

NATIONAL GRID - RI ELECTRIC
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSE
(\$000)

| | | | |
|---|-----|----|--------------------|
| Incentive Compensation | (A) | \$ | (1,204) |
| Contracted Hiring Requirement | (B) | | (1,363) |
| Customer Assistance Advocacy | (C) | | (182) |
| Rate Case Expense | (D) | | (519) |
| Customer Contact Activities | (E) | | (376) |
| Economic Development Program | (F) | | (1,000) |
| Vegetation Management | (G) | | (1,985) |
| Inspection and Maintenance | (G) | | (2,094) |
| Affiliate Expenses | (H) | | (3,100) |
| Storm Fund Accrual | (I) | | (1,041) |
| Storm Damage Expense | (J) | | (2,001) |
| Injuries and Damages | (K) | | (2,500) |
| Legal Fees | (L) | | (419) |
| ISO Load Response Credit | (M) | | (300) |
| Net Merger Synergy Savings (CTA) | (N) | | <u>(1,176)</u> |
| Total Adjustment to Operation and Maintenance Expense | | | <u>\$ (19,260)</u> |

Sources

| | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| (A) | Total Incentive Comp Expense | 2,408 | NG-RLO-2, pp. 5-7 |
| | Financial Goals | <u>1/2</u> | Dowd direct, pp. 8-9 |
| | Comp. Based on Financial Goals | <u>1,204</u> | |
| (B) | NG-RLO-2, Page 15 | | |
| (C) | NG-RLO-2, Page 16 | | |
| (D) | NG-RLO-2, Page 18 | 1730/5-865 | |
| (E) | NG-RLO-2, Page 21 | | |
| (F) | NG-RLO-2, Page 22 | | |
| (G) | Testimony of Mr. Hahn | | |
| (H) | Testimony of Ms. Smith | | |
| (I) | COMM 1-107 | | |
| (J) | DIV 23-1B | (5168+2860+4114+3256+437)/5-5168 | |
| (K) | DIV 1-29, DIV 23-3 | | |
| (L) | DIV 10-27 | | |
| (M) | DIV 1-29 | | |
| (N) | NG-RLO-3, Pages 1 and 5 | (16005-6161-2449)/8-2100 | |

Schedule DJE-5

NATIONAL GRID - RI ELECTRIC
ADJUSTMENTS TO DEPRECIATION EXPENSE
(\$000)

| | | |
|--|-----|-----------------|
| Adjustment to Plant in Service | (A) | \$ (20,222) |
| Composite Book Depreciation Rate | (B) | <u>3.40%</u> |
| Adjustment to Pro Forma Depreciation Expense | | <u>\$ (688)</u> |

Sources:

- (A) Schedule DJE-8
- (B) NG-RLO-2, Page 28

NATIONAL GRID - RI ELECTRIC
ADJUSTMENTS TO TAXES OTHER THAN INCOME TAXES
(\$000)

| | | |
|---|-----|-----------------|
| Payroll Taxes | | |
| Contracted Hiring Requirement | (A) | \$ (70) |
| Customer Assistance Advocacy | (B) | (9) |
| Municipal Taxes | (C) | <u>(883)</u> |
| Total Adjustment to Taxes Other Than Income Taxes | | <u>\$ (962)</u> |

- (A) NG-RLO-2, Page 15
- (B) NG-RLO-2, Page 16
- (C) Response to Division Data Request 1-25

Schedule DJE-7

NATIONAL GRID - RI ELECTRIC
INCOME TAX EXPENSE
(\$000)

| | | |
|---|-------------------------|------------------|
| Rate Base | DJE-8 | \$ 585,606 |
| Weighted Return on Equity | DJE-9 | <u>4.81%</u> |
| Preliminary Taxable Income Base | | 28,145 |
| Tax Reconciling Items | NG-RLO-2, Page 29 | <u>(1,269)</u> |
| Taxable Income Base | | 26,876 |
| Taxable Income | Taxable Income Base/.65 | 41,347 |
| Income Tax Rate | | <u>35%</u> |
| Current and Deferred Income Tax Expense | | 14,471 |
| Unfunded Deferred Tax Catch-up | NG-RLO-2, Page 29 | 650 |
| Amortization of ITC | NG-RLO-2, Page 29 | <u>(488)</u> |
| Total Rate Year Income Tax Expense | | <u>\$ 14,633</u> |

NATIONAL GRID - RI ELECTRIC
RETURN ON RATE BASE
(\$000)

| | (A) Company <u>Position</u> | <u>Adjustments</u> | | Division <u>Position</u> |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-----|-----------------------------|
| Electric Plant in Service | \$ 1,232,747 | (20,222) | (B) | \$ 1,212,525 |
| Plant Held for Future Use | 204 | | | 204 |
| Contributions in Aid of Construction | (103) | | | (103) |
| Accumulated Depreciation | <u>(516,525)</u> | <u>(2,397)</u> | (B) | <u>(518,922)</u> |
| Net Plant | <u>716,323</u> | <u>(22,619)</u> | | <u>693,704</u> |
| | | | | |
| Materials and Supplies | 6,375 | | | 6,375 |
| Prepaid Expenses | 2 | | | 2 |
| Loss on Reacquired Debt | 4,592 | | | 4,592 |
| Cash Working Capital | <u>17,789</u> | <u>(8,848)</u> | (C) | <u>8,941</u> |
| Sub-total | <u>28,758</u> | <u>(8,848)</u> | | <u>19,910</u> |
| | | | | - |
| Accumulated Deferred FIT | 113,088 | 6,876 | (D) | 119,964 |
| Customer Deposits | 3,283 | | | 3,283 |
| Injuries and Damages Reserve | <u>4,762</u> | <u>-</u> | | <u>4,762</u> |
| Sub-total | <u>121,133</u> | <u>6,876</u> | | <u>128,009</u> |
| | | | | |
| Net Rate Base | 623,948 | (38,342) | | 585,606 |
| | | | | |
| Rate of Return | <u>8.98%</u> | <u>-1.20%</u> | (E) | <u>7.78%</u> |
| | | | | |
| Return on Rate Base | <u>\$ 56,031</u> | <u>\$ (10,494)</u> | | <u>\$ 45,537</u> |

Sources

| | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| (A) | NG-RLO-2, Page 30 | | |
| (B) | Schedule DJE-8.1 | | |
| (C) | Schedule DJE-8.2 | | |
| (D) | Actual Balance 6/30/09 | 118,736 | DIV 1-3 |
| | Projected Increase to 6/30/10 | <u>1,228</u> | * |
| | Projected Avg. Rate Year Balance | <u><u>119,964</u></u> | |
| | * Based on increase from 3/31 to 6/30 | | |
| (E) | Schedule DJE-9 | | |

NATIONAL GRID - RI ELECTRIC
ADJUSTMENT TO RATE YEAR PLANT IN SERVICE AND ACCUM DEPRECIATION
(\$000)

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|---------------------|
| Plant in Service 12/31/08 | (A) | \$ 1,147,926 |
| Plant in Service 06/31/09 | (B) | <u>1,169,765</u> |
| Increase | | 21,839 |
| Projected Plant Balance 12/31/09 | | 1,191,604 |
| Projected Additions - 2010 | (C) | 48,300 |
| Projected Retirements - 2010 | (D) | <u>6,458</u> |
| Projected Plant Balance 12/31/10 | | <u>\$ 1,233,446</u> |
| | | |
| Average Rate Year Plant Balance | | <u>\$ 1,212,525</u> |
| | | |
| Accumulated Depreciation 12/31/08 | (E) | \$ 477,960 |
| Accumulated Depreciation 6/30/09 | (B) | <u>491,147</u> |
| Increase | | 13,187 |
| Projected Balance 12/31/09 | | 504,334 |
| Rate Year Depreciation Expense | (F) | 40,778 |
| Retirements | | 6,458 |
| Cost of Removal | (G) | <u>5,145</u> |
| Projected Balance 12/31/10 | | <u>\$ 533,509</u> |
| | | |
| Average Rate Year Balance | | <u>\$ 518,922</u> |

Sources

- (A) NG-RLO-2, Page 34
- (B) Division 1-3
- (C) Division 23-5, 12*Avg. Monthly Plant Additions
- (D) Workpaper NG-RLO-28, Page 2 13.37% * Additions
- (E) NG-RLO-2, Page 35
- (F) Schedule DJE-2
- (G) Workpaper NG-RLO-28, Page 2, Division 1-1
(2940+5327+7169)/3

NATIONAL GRID - RI ELECTRIC
CASH WORKING CAPITAL
(\$000)

| | | |
|--|-----|-----------------------|
| Municipal Taxes | | |
| Adjusted Rate Year Municipal Taxes | (A) | 19,202 |
| Proposed Net Lag | (B) | <u>-8.82%</u> |
| CWC Dollars | | (1,694) |
| CWC Dollars per Company | (A) | <u>6,783</u> |
| Adjustment to Company Position | | (8,477) |
| Eliminate CTC Working Capital | (A) | <u>(371)</u> |
| Total Adjustment to Cash Working Capital | | <u><u>(8,848)</u></u> |

Sources:

- (A) NG-RLO-2, Page 38, Schedule DJE-6
- (B) Docket No. 3943, Attachment NG-MDL-2, Page 1

NATIONAL GRID - RI ELECTRIC
RATE OF RETURN
(\$000)

Company Position

| | <u>Percent of Total</u> | <u>Cost Rate</u> | <u>Weighted Cost</u> |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Long Term Debt | 44.80% | 6.79% | 3.04% |
| Short Term Debt | 5.00% | 2.50% | 0.13% |
| Preferred Stock | 0.20% | 4.50% | 0.01% |
| Common Equity | <u>50.00%</u> | 11.60% | <u>5.80%</u> |
| Total Capital | <u>100.00%</u> | | <u>8.98%</u> |

Division Position

| | <u>Percent of Total</u> | <u>Cost Rate</u> | <u>Weighted Cost</u> |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Long Term Debt | 47.33% | 6.10% | 2.89% |
| Short Term Debt | 4.98% | 1.60% | 0.08% |
| Preferred Stock | 0.19% | 4.50% | 0.01% |
| Common Equity | <u>47.50%</u> | 10.10% | <u>4.80%</u> |
| Total Capital | <u>100.00%</u> | | <u>7.78%</u> |

Sources:

Attachment NG-RLO-2, Page 32

Testimony of Mr. Kahal